

Roald Dahl

Roald Dahl's birth and family



Roald Dahl was born in Llandaff, near the Welsh capital of Cardiff, on 13th September 1916. Roald's parents, Harald Dahl and Sofie Magdalene Hesselberg, were both Norwegian and he was named after Norway's famous polar explorer, Roald Amundsen.

Roald's father Harald was a shipbroker and his business, Aadnesen and Dahl, was very successful. In *Boy*, Roald describes a shipbroker as "a person who supplies a ship with everything it needs when it comes into port - fuel and food, ropes and paint, soap and towels, hammers and nails, and thousands of other tiddly little items."

Roald was born during the First World War. In France the Battle of the Somme, one of the largest and bloodiest battles in the conflict, was raging.

Roald Dahl attends the local Llandaff Cathedral School

From September 1923 until 1925, Roald attended the local Llandaff Cathedral School, an all-boys school. During his time at Llandaff, Roald and his friends staged "the great and daring Mouse Plot" - involving a local sweet shop, its miserable and dirty owner Mrs Pratchett, and a dead mouse. Roald tells the story in detail in his 1984 memoir *Boy*.



Roald Dahl begins working for Shell Oil



In 1934, Roald left school and, after taking part in an expedition to Newfoundland, he began working for the Shell Oil Company. For the first few years of his time with Shell he lived at home with his mother and family in Kent, and commuted to work as a clerk in the company's London offices. During this time he also began writing spoofs and sketches.

Roald Dahl joins the Royal Air Force (RAF) during World War Two

Following the outbreak of World War Two, Roald Dahl left Shell and went to Nairobi to enlist in the Royal Air Force (RAF). He was 23 years old.

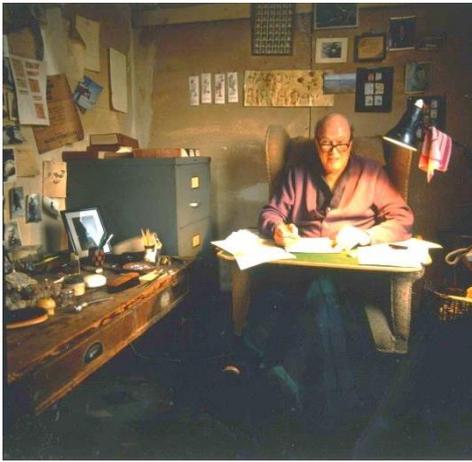


In Nairobi he learnt to fly a Tiger Moth plane, training alongside 15 other men of a similar age. In *Going Solo* he wrote: "It is a fact that out of those sixteen, no fewer than thirteen were killed in the air within the next two years."



In September 1940, Roald's plane crashed in the Western Desert of North Africa and he received severe injuries to his head, nose and back. Following the crash, Roald was taken to a hospital in Egypt. He spent around six months recovering from his injuries, under the care of the hospital staff.

In the summer of 1941, Dahl began to suffer from severe headaches as a result of crash in the Libyan desert. Unable to fly any longer, Roald was sent home to Great Britain.



There, he returned to live with his mother, who was now living in Buckinghamshire. Dahl made Buckinghamshire his permanent home, and he wrote many of his famous children's books here.

Dahl went on to write a number of popular books for children and adults, including *James and the Giant Peach*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *The Witches*, and *Danny, the Champion of the World*. Roald Dahl is one of the most popular writers in the world. His books have sold over 200 million copies around the world. Roald Dahl died on 23rd November 1990 at the age of 74.



1913 Born



1934 Begins working for Shell

1941 Dismissed from the RAF because of injury

1964 *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* is published



1982 *Revolting Rhymes* and *The BFG* are published



1910

1920

1923 - 1934 Attends school at Llandaff Cathedral School and Repton School

1930

1939 Joins the RAF during World War Two



1940

1950

1960

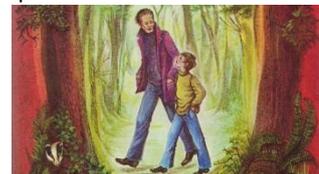
1961 *James and the Giant Peach* is published



1970

1975 *Danny, the Champion of the World* is published

1980



1990

November 1990 Roald Dahl dies

2000

2015 Over 200 million copies of Roald Dahl books sold worldwide

